

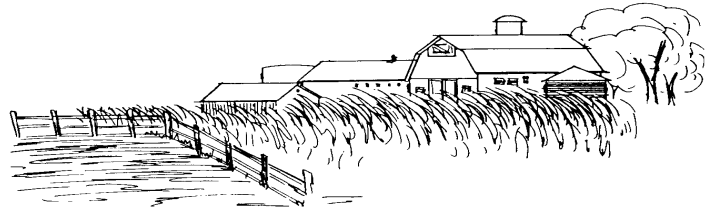


UTAH
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News Release

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Commercial Fruit Utilized Production

UTAH: Utah's 2004 apple, apricot, and peach, utilized production estimates were up from 2003, according to the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service. Estimates of utilized production for tart cherries, sweet cherries, and pears were lower than 2003. Utilized production for 2004 was as follows: apples, 29.5 million pounds, 2 million pounds more than 2003; apricots, 290 tons, 130 tons more than 2003; sweet cherries, 1,600 tons, 400 tons less than 2003; tart cherries, 22.0 million pounds, 4 million pounds less than 2003; peaches, 4,550 tons, 200 tons more than 2003; and pears, 300 tons, 80 tons less than 2003.

Value of production for Utah's 2004 fruit crop and change from 2003 were as follows: apples, \$6.5 million, up \$2.2million; apricots, \$177,000 up \$83,000; sweet cherries, \$1.6 million down \$2.1 million; tart cherries, \$5.4 million; down \$1.6 million; peaches, \$2.9 million, down \$578,000; and pears, \$118,000, down \$180,000.

UNITED STATES: Utilized apple production for 2004 is estimated at 9.93 billion pounds, up 15 percent from the 2003 level. Utilized production for Washington and New York increased 30 percent and 7 percent, respectively, while Michigan's utilized production decreased 19 percent compared to last year. In Washington, excellent growing conditions allowed production to rebound from the short 2003 crop. Yield potential in Michigan was reduced by a hard freeze during the first week of May. Widespread hail storms in the early Fall further curtailed Michigan production. Heat in California and remnants of the hurricanes in Pennsylvania reduced utilized production from 2003. Utilized peach production in 2004 is estimated at 1.23 million tons, up 2 percent from the previous year and 1 percent above 2002. The California crop, accounting for 76 percent of the U.S. utilized peach production, is up 1 percent from 2003. For California, the Clingstone peach estimate is up 7 percent but the Freestone estimate is down 6 percent from 2003. Utilized pear production for 2004 is 888,400 tons, down 4 percent from the previous year. Washington, the top producing State, utilized 386,000 tons, down 9 percent from 2003. California, the second largest producer at 269,000 tons, is down 1 percent from the previous season. Utilized pear production in Oregon, the third largest producing State, is 208,000 tons, up 4 percent from 2003.